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## **A Sequence of Events**

### **A history of the White and Black Deserts**

In the beginning, Before the Egyptians or T.V. or Micro-chips, North Africa was completely submerged underwater. All the way from the northern most point of Egypt, all the way down to Sudan, was part of the Mediterranean Sea. Deep down on the seabed that is now Egypt, a huge block of limestone formed. Thousands upon millions of dead *dissolution* fish remains and sea shells piled up on top of each other and were compressed and smashed into white limestone. The White Desert is named after its limestone. Eventually, tectonic plates carried Africa too close to Europe and their plates collided. Africa was forced up out of the water. It took ~~hundreds~~ of years but eventually, it was above sea level. As Africa was rising, the deltas of two rivers moved slowly northward towards the Med. Sea, dropping sediments as they went to form sandstone. Originally, the limestone was weathered by wind and the movement of the earth's crust. The limestone was sandblasted continuously for years (and still is) to make the formations we see today. The wind is only strong enough to carry particles of sand so high, so mushroom formations are made.

Over a time, a rip appeared in the seabed east of Egypt and spewed lava all over the desert. The lava hardened to become black Basalt which is where the Black Desert got its name. The black desert also formed, in some places, higher above sea level than the white desert. The wind blew the sand out from under the Basalt to form black mounds characteristic to the Black Desert. Over time, people began to inhabit North Africa and now we are a force of weathering. As we walk over the desert and touch the rocks and climb on the formations, we weather the rock away.